ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method, apparatus and article of manufacture for displaying computer program variables on a display device when debugging the computer program. In general, the executable status of variables is determined. The variables are then displayed on a display device in manner to differentiate the different executable statuses of the variables. In one embodiment, a first executable status indicates that a variable can change value when the computer program is executing. In another embodiment, a second executable status indicates that a current value of a variable may have a use.